

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1-1. Policy. The policy of the USACE is to plan and execute Recovered Chemical Warfare Materiel (RCWM) response actions in a manner that fully meets customers' expectations of quality timeliness, and cost effectiveness within the bounds of legal responsibility. An acceptable level of quality does not imply perfection; however, there should be no compromise of functional, health, or safety requirements. Adherence to the Quality Management principles outlined in Engineer Regulation (ER) 5-1-11, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Business Process, and ER 1110-1-12, Quality Management, will contribute to achieving this goal. RCWM response procedures must be formulated to ensure harmony with the USACE Strategic Vision and should be executed in concert with activities presented in other USACE guidance.

### 1-2. RCWM Response Overview.

#### a. Description of the RCWM Response Process.

(1) RCWM response activities include actions taken to reduce the risk to human health and the environment from exposure to RCWM resulting from past Department of Defense (DOD) operations at a site. Guidance for sites that contain chemical agent contaminated media (CACM) will be published separately. The discussions in this pamphlet apply to all activities at RCWM sites.

(2) The definition of OE, per ER 1110-1-8153, Ordnance and Explosives Response, includes RCWM. Therefore, RCWM Response projects are conducted in accordance with the same procedures used for OE response actions. This Engineer Pamphlet (EP) discusses the procedures and requirements that are unique to RCWM projects. A reference will be provided to EP 1110-1-18, OE response for procedures and requirements that are applicable to RCWM and identical to the requirements for OE.

b. RCWM response at Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), Active and Transferring Installations. A discussion of the requirements for conducting CWM Response at FUDS, Active and Transferring Installations is provided in EP 1110-1-18.

c. Execution of CWM Response Actions. In accordance with ER 1110-1-8153, the USAESCH is the only USACE command authorized to execute RCWM projects. If the presence of RCWM is suspected at a site the Project Manager (PM) must coordinate with the US Army Engineer and Support Center, Huntsville (USAESCH) prior to beginning any on-site activities.

### 1-3. RCWM Response Regulatory Authorities.

a. A discussion of the governing laws and regulations for any specific RCWM response project is provided in EP1110-1-18. This discussion provides an overview of the legal authorities for conducting a RCWM response project, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) (including the FUDS program and Installation Restoration Program (IRP)), Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Military Munitions Rule, and Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs).